

## **FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**Submitted by: Brian R. Barrette**

**Finding: There is a Lack of Availability of Hand Crews Such As Cal Fire's Conservation Camps in the Basin Due to Long Travel Times.**

### **Background and Supporting Evidence:**

While there is a great need for additional hand crews to carry out brush clearing, thinning, and other work in the Basin, there is currently no Cal Fire Conservation Camp located nearby, and the long travel times from Growlersburg of approximately two hours limits their use. NDF crews can work on the California side, but need to be reimbursed for the crew time and effort. The California Conservation Corps crews are stationed within the Basin, but not enough crews are available to meet the demand.

**Recommendation(s) Seek a site for a new Conservation Camp outside of the Basin, but close by. A potential site at Hobart Mills North of Truckee was once explored. Another possibility is on State land in the Martis Valley area, as there is a large demand in that area for crew time. Having crews working in the Basin would greatly decrease travel times in case of fires.**

### ☐ **Impacts of Implementation:**

Long lead time to locate, fund, and construct a new camp; as well as to convince the Department of Corrections to establish a new camp; even though it costs less than half the cost of housing inmates in a prison. Once a camp is operating, there would be probably four crews available to carry out brush clearance, hazard abatement, and other needed work within the Basin..

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is OPTIONAL:

Establishment of Conservation Camps requires support of locals; who often are fearful over having inmates nearby. Bringing neighbors from other camps to public meetings is a possible means to defuse opposition if there is any.